

Annual Parish Council Meeting held at Hardwick on 1st March 2022

Present: David Alexander (Chairman), Jeremy Alexander, Andrew Penn, Miles Moseley and Josephine Murgatroyd (Clerk).

Alison Thomas (County Councillor)

Apologies: Jeremy Styles, Mark Cann and Michael Edney (District Councillor)

There were two Parishioner present and a further three Parishioners for the Presentation.

David Hill, Deputy Lieutenant for Norfolk presented to the Chairman a Plaque to commemorate the community's response during the Coronavirus pandemic. The Plaque was inscribed with the words 'Live your best and act your best and think your best today'.

On behalf of the Parish Council and the Parish, the Chairman thanked David Hill and acknowledged the assistance given by Parishioners not just during the pandemic but also at other times of need.

1 Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th December 2021 were read, confirmed and signed.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Defibrillator

The Chairman confirmed that the electrician had completed the installation and the defibrillator was available for use. The electrician's invoice for £568.72 (including VAT of £94.79) had been paid.

The Clerk confirmed that the defibrillator had been registered with the Ambulance Service. Andrew Penn offered to carry out the required checks and the PC thanked him for his offer.

Highways

Alison Thomas had been in contact with Gary Overland who apologised for not having installed the marker posts on Low Road. He will visit the location again and make the necessary arrangements. In the meantime, temporary marker posts had been erected in case of flooding. Alison Thomas confirmed that her highway budget of £300 was available to meet the costs involved. The PC thanked Alison Thomas.

County Broadband

Confirmation had been received that the project was definitely going ahead. There was as yet no date for the start of the installation of the cabling, but it could be mid 2023. Work was currently being carried out in adjoining parishes.

Village Sign

Jeremy Alexander confirmed that the sign will be placed back into position this spring.

Village Well

Miles Moseley confirmed that he would contact Gordon Wilson re organising materials for the restoration of the well.

Digging Up Norfolk

Changes have been made to reducing the impact of the laying of the cables across parts of Norfolk including the reduction in places of the width of the trenches from 200m to 60m and also having a number of 'trenchless' crossings.

3. Correspondence

There was nothing in particular to report. Regular updates were received from NALC and Norfolk Constabulary including Operation Randall newsletters and details of local priorities and meetings.

4. Planning

Long Stratton Bypass

Amended plans for the bypass have been submitted. Long Stratton is still accessed on Hall Lane by a bridge over the bypass. Alison Thomas explained that the bypass has been planned by County Council Highway Engineers. The developers had previously planned the bypass but there were a number of issues that meant the plans were not upto specification. This included concerns about flooding. The Planning Committee should be considering the plans in May/June and construction should be completed by the end of 2025. Norfolk County Council have taken over responsibility for the bypass and funding is all agreed. There will be separate planning applications for the residential developments.

5. Accounts

The current balance was £2,148.70. £1,000 was ringfenced for the restoration of the well and the 2022/23 precept of £1,030 has yet to be paid.

The PC considered what donations should be made. Following a discussion, it was proposed by Jeremy Alexander, seconded by Andrew Penn and agreed by the PC that a one off donation of £200 should be made to Priscilla Bacon towards the new Hospice and donations of £50 each to East Anglian Air Ambulance, Norfolk Accident Rescue Service, Diss CAB and Serve Norfolk.

6. Meeting Suspended for Public Participation

There was none

7. Any Other Business

There was none.

8. Date of Next Meeting

This was fixed for 17th May 2022 at 7.30pm

The Meeting closed at 9pm

Chairman
2022

Payments:- Village Hall Hire - £15.00
Shelton and Hardwick PCC £100.00
Priscilla Bacon Hospice £200
East Anglian Air Ambulance
Norfolk Accident Rescue Service £50
Diss CAB £50
SERV Norfolk £50